

## UTILITIES COMMISSION

March 8, 2011

7:00 p.m.

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on March 8, 2011 in the A, B, C Conference Room in the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Steven Apicella, Rick Carroll, Bob Gibbons, Danny Kim and Bill Tignor. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, Mike Smith, Deidre Jett and Cheryl Giles were present for the Utilities Department.

1. **Public Presentations** – Paul Waldowski commented he is concerned that the old water meters in the Stafford Meadows subdivision may pose a public safety issue and is another reason the county should take over maintenance of the water and sewer system.

2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes for the February 8, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

3. **Commission Members Comments** – Mr. Apicella reported that the Board of Supervisors will seek guidance from the County Attorney's office regarding dual membership in the BZA and Utilities Commission held by himself and Mr. Gibbons. They have been advised by the Board that they may continue to serve on both commissions until findings by the state Attorney General's office.

4. **Director's Report** – Mr. Critzer reported the following items:

- The Board of Supervisors authorized condemnation and exercise of quick-take powers for the last sewer easement in connection with the Falls Run Phase 1 Sewer project. Staff is still negotiating with the homeowners to reach a settlement.
- During the recent budget process, Utilities offered to give up two vacant Line Crew Worker positions in field operations. The positions will not be filled and will be deleted, if the Board accepts the offer.
- A work session will be held Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to finalize the CIP.
- A meeting will be held Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> with the Treasurer, the Commissioner of Revenue and a vendor to develop a website that will offer more flexibility for our customers to make online payments, view their account information and to make donations to the Stafford Safety Net program.

5. **Stafford Meadows Update** – Mr. Critzer provided a report about the history, estimated billings, and details about the current water and sewer infrastructure for the Stafford Meadows subdivision. Mr. Critzer reported that once inspections are completed, staff will develop a cost estimate to bring the water and sewer infrastructure up to current county standards.

Following Mr. Critzer's report, discussion ensued. Mr. Gibbons asked if the development had originally installed individual meter settings would the department have furnished individual meters for the project. Mr. Critzer responded that the choice of master meters was made at

construction. There were no individual meter settings installed so the cost to convert to individual meters now should not be borne by the Utilities Dept.

Mr. Tignor asked the HOA president, Mr. Barnes, if the water and sewer system was functional. Mr. Barnes responded that the system is functional but is deteriorating daily.

Mr. Tignor asked if there is a precedent for this situation. Mr. Critzer responded that he doesn't recall being petitioned to provide maintenance for a water and sewer system. There are 34 other communities that have a similar situation with a total of 200+ master meters.

Mr. Tignor recommended that staff notify the Griffis-Widewater Supervisor about the information presented in the report, obtain input from the County Attorney's office about the actions being requested and find out what precedent it would set. Mr. Apicella commented that staff should also ask the County Attorney what the threshold requirement would be to force residents who may not want the service.

Mr. Apicella commented that prior to VDOT assuming responsibility of roads, the roads must be brought up to their standards. Likewise, the homeowners should be responsible for bringing the water and sewer system up to standards before Utilities assumes responsibility of the maintenance system of Stafford Meadows.

Mr. Critzer stated that additional information would be gathered and staff would inform members of the findings within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Gibbons requested that staff also research the difference in codes for a townhouse and condominium with regards to water and sewer availability during the timeframe the buildings were built.

6. **New Business** - Mr. Critzer inquired if members would be interested in having a tour of a wastewater facility, once the weather improves. Members agreed they were interested. A tentative date would be provided at a later meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Kim,  
Recording Secretary